of whose appointment is not less than Rs. 300 are now considered as Levee Officers. Mofussil Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, are also included in the above group.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the members of the Legislature are included in the category of the Levee Officers?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Import duty on Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil.

317. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the lowering of prices for cocoanuts, copra and oil in Travancore;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether it is due to the lowering of the import duty for Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil by the Government of India; and

(*c*) whether the Travancore Government are willing to address the Government of India to immediately enhance the import duty for Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The fall in the prices of the articles in question is mainly due to the prevailing economic depression. The increasing import of Ceylon cocoanuts copra and cocoanut oil into the British Indian markets, due probably to the lowering of import duty on these articles, has also contributed to the fall in the prices of Travancore products.

(*c*) The Government of India have already been addressed to enhance the import duty on non-Indian cocoanuts, copra and oil.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member who is responsible for lowering the import duty on Ceylon copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The rate of duty was enhanced to 30 per cent. after the Ottawa agreement, and a reduction of 10 per cent. was made in favour of Empire products.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the Travancore Government was consulted when the import duty was lowered?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether Ceylon has entered in the Ottawa agreement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not quite sure.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum.—Urban*): May I know from the member whether there is anybody in the Travancore Government service who has studied the economic problem and is capable of giving advice on such questions to Government?

PRESIDENT: The Commissioner himself.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I study the question.

PRESIDENT : You are the technical adviser to Government Is that the answer?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member when the recent tariff value on cocoanuts was fixed by Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It came into operation from the 1st of January 1934.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : When was it decided?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Just before that.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know whether there is any reason to change the tariff value?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is revised every year in accordance with the variations in the market value.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know from the member whether there is any correspondence between the Travancore Government and the Government of India on the reduction of tariff?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have already answered that. I am not in possession of the information. I claim notice.

MR. E V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know from the member who thinks himself to be the expert adviser to Government in these matters what time he will take to study to know whether Ceylon has entered into the Ottawa agreement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I may inform the member that, so far as I know, Ceylon is not a party to the Ottawa agreement.

Supply of Bombay Salt.

318. *MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many tenders were received by Government for the supply of Bombay salt ;

(*b*) how many of them were from Travancore ;

(*c*) to whom the contract has been given ;

(*d*) whether he is a Travancorean ;

(*e*) whether the Excise Commissioner objected to the contract being given to him ; and

(*f*) what were his reasons?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) :. (*a*) Four.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) Messrs Khan Bahadur H. M. D. H. Bhiwandivala & Co., Bombay.

(*d*) In view of answer to part (*b*), this does not arise.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) In view of answer to part (*e*), this question does not arise.

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